

Appl. No. 10/030,761

Amendment dated February 24, 2004

Reply to Non-final Office Action of November 20, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented): A toothbrush comprising a brush head having a plurality of bristle bunches arranged in an elongate bristle bed, said bed having a longitudinal axis and two outer sides arranged substantially in the elongate direction of the bed, and a handle connected to the brush head by a connecting part, wherein a first set of bristle bunches is arranged at the two outer sides of the bristle bed, the bristle ends thereof comprising split bristle ends of substantially the same length, and wherein a second set of bristle bunches is arranged between the two outer sides of the bristle bed, the bristle ends thereof forming a wave shape profile longitudinally in the bristle bed.

14. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein the first set of bristle bunches is disposed outwardly from the second set of bristle bunches, the bristles of the first set of bristle bunches having uppermost ends and the bristles of the second set of bristle bunches having lowermost ends, wherein the uppermost ends of the bristles of the first set of bristle bunches extend further from the brush head than the lowermost ends of the bristles of the second set of bristle bunches.

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15. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein the first set of bristle bunches is disposed outwardly from the second set of bristle bunches, the bristles of the first set of bristle bunches having uppermost ends and the bristles of the second set of bristle bunches having uppermost ends, wherein the uppermost ends of the bristles of the first set of bristle bunches extend from the brush head by an equal to at most 1 mm greater length than the uppermost ends of the bristles of the second set of bristle bunches.

16. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 14, wherein the first set of bristle bunches is disposed outwardly from the second set of bristle bunches, the bristles of the first set of bristle bunches having uppermost ends and the bristles of the second set of bristle bunches having uppermost ends, wherein the uppermost ends of the bristles of the first set of bristle bunches extend from the brush head by an equal to at most 1 mm greater length than the uppermost ends of the bristles of the second set of bristle bunches.

17. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein the bristles of the first set of bristle bunches are split up to 4 mm from their ends.

18. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 17, wherein the bristles of the first set of bristle bunches are split up to 2 mm from their ends.

19. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13,

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wherein the first set of bristle bunches are arranged in one or more rows of bristle bunches at each of the two outer sides of the brush head, wherein each row of bristle bunches comprising the first set of bristle bunches comprises five to ten bunches of bristles per row.

20. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein the second set of bristle bunches comprise bristles having a length of 8 mm to 14 mm measured from the brush head.

21. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 20, wherein the second set of bristle bunches comprise bristles having a length of 9.5 mm to 12 mm measured from the brush head.

22. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein bristles of the second set of bristle bunches, having a length measured from the brush head that varies in wave shape in the elongate direction of the bristle bed, varying in length in wave shape from 1 mm to 2 mm.

23. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein the ends of the bristles of the second set of bristle bunches are rounded.

24. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein the second set of bristle bunches comprises a plurality of rows of bristle bunches arranged in rows extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the bristle bed, in which second set of bristle bunches one to

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two rows of shorter bristle bunches alternate with one to two rows of longer bristle bunches.

25. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 24, wherein the rows of shorter bristles form a region 6 mm to 10 mm long measured on the longitudinal axis of the bristle bed between the adjacent rows of longer bristles.

26. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein the bristle bunches are spaced 1.5 mm to 3.5 mm apart.

27. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 26, wherein the bristle bunches are spaced 2.0 mm to 3.0 mm apart.

28. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 13, wherein the second set of bristle bunches comprises twenty to thirty bristle bunches and the first set of bristle bunches comprises ten to twenty bristle bunches.

29. (previously presented): The toothbrush of claim 28, wherein the second set of bristle bunches comprises twenty-three to twenty-eight bristle bunches.

30. (Currently amended): The toothbrush of claim 24, wherein the second set of bristle bunches comprises a plurality of rows of bristle bunches arranged in rows extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the bristle bed, in which the second set of bristle bunches consists of one to two rows of shorter bristle bunches, ~~in~~

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~~which~~ the bristles thereof ~~have~~ having the same length ~~alternate~~ alternating with one to two rows of longer bristle bunches.

31. (Currently amended): The toothbrush of claim 24, wherein the second set of bristle bunches comprises a plurality of rows of bristle bunches arranged in rows extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the bristle bed, in which the second set of bristle bunches consists of one to two rows of shorter bristle bunches ~~alternate~~ alternating with one to two rows of longer bristle bunches, ~~in which~~ the bristles thereof ~~have~~ having the same length.

32. (Currently amended): The toothbrush of claim 24, wherein the second set of bristle bunches comprises a plurality of rows of bristle bunches arranged in rows extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the bristle bed, in which the second set of bristle bunches consists of one to two rows of shorter bristle bunches, ~~in which~~ the bristles thereof ~~have~~ having the same length, ~~alternate~~ alternating with one to two rows of longer bristle bunches, ~~in which~~ the bristles thereof ~~have~~ having the same length.